

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,
Commission Merchants,
NEW YORK.

It was naturally the work of many years with the owner, who is a gentleman of means & without family.

I beg to add that Mr. Durr does not particularly desire that your Institute should take charge of his whole collection, if this should not be found convenient but he desires to have those pictures which he values most in a safe place during his proposed absence.

I may add that the idea of offering the collection to you, suggested itself to the writer, who is a lover of art in consequence of a recent visit to your city, where he visited your collection.
Very respectfully
J. Fred Roelker

Roelker, Alfred

(221)

New York Feb 3. 1874
Recd Feb 4. 1874,

The owner of the Paintings
mentioned in last letter is.

Mr Louis Dierr.

Has sent a Catalogue.

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,
Commission Merchants,
NEW YORK.

February 2nd 1874.

Wm. Massie, Esq,
Curator Corcoran gallery
of Art
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

In reply to your
favor of yesterday I beg
to say that the owner of
the paintings in question
is Mr. Louis Dierr of this
city. - As to the size of
the pictures, there is a
number of large ones
but by far the greater
number are cabinet
pieces. - An idea of
what the collection
contains, may be gathered
from a Catalogue which
was published last winter
when an Exhibition of it
for a benevolent purpose
took place & which I send
to you. - The names

of the painters mentioned
in the Catalogue are
authenticated in many
cases by both the signature
or monogram, as well as
by the distinct character
of the Artists. Sometimes
the distinct character
of design color handling
sufficiently authenticates
the work. Some may be
good old school copies,
in a few cases the names
of Greek Artists, which
best illustrated the
character of the works
were taken in order to assign
to them their place in
the period to which they
belong.

The collection has been
formed mostly from
Greek old collections in
Europe as well as this
country, which bore in
themselves, proofs of genuine
(new)

221 1/2
Mangle Jane Mrs.
Georgetown S. C.
Nov 16. 1873

Offers a portrait of
Chief Justice Shippin
by Stewart. for sale

✓

COBB CORAN GALLERY OF ART,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

Some starting point of comparison or analogy as to the value of such a work. I believe

Stenars are quite rare now.

My sister has a beautiful one of my Grandmother Mrs Lea but then like most of Stenars only the faces fully finished the draperies are merely designed as was often the case with his portraits of women -

I trust your health continues good and your eye I hope no longer troubles you - With my love to Miss Eustis believe me dear Mr Corcoran
Faithfully yours
Jane Pangle

221 1/2

Georgetown
South Carolina



Nov: 16.

White House

Dear Mr. Corcoran

Having heard that you intend founding a National Gallery in Washington I venture to write in the hope that I may induce you to become the purchaser of a very valuable portrait by the celebrated Stewart of Chief Justice Shippen of Pa. my great grandfather.

It has been reckoned one of
Stewart's very best paintings
and is in all respects in perfect
preservation - the wonderful
flesh tints being as well preserved
- and as fresh as if painted
yesterday - I should like it
to belong to a public institution
safe from all the risks and
chances of private ownership
in the South - Chief Justice
Shippin was the last Chief
Justice under the crown and
Father of the beautiful &
unhappy Mrs Arnold who was
my Grandmother's sister as I

have say you know from Bancroft's
history of that period -

I am quite at a loss
to fix a price upon this por-
-trait - The Rutledges sold
one by Stewart of Gen^l Washing-
ton for \$1200 - but it was a
full length: as a painting
it did not compare with
the one I have; which however
is a Portrait as I think they used
to call the $\frac{3}{4}$ sitting length -

Should you take the
matter into consideration
perhaps you would be so
good as to furnish me with

(222)

Pringle. Jane.

Sept. 1. 1874

Feb. 5. 1874.

Jan. 11. Feb. 5.

Arrival of picture accounted for

Has sent picture of Chief
Justice Shippen by Stewart
addressed to the Gallery.

✓

Georgetown
South Carolina

1st Feb: 1874

Mr Corcoran

Dear Sir

In compliance
with your request to send to
Washington my picture of Chief
Justice Shippin by Stewart, and
trusting that the Committee may
find my report of it in all respects
accurate, I have had it carefully
packed and my son will carry it
to Charleston tomorrow by steamer
and deliver it himself to the Express
addressed to "The Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington"
"D. C."

I hope the affair may terminate
to our mutual satisfaction and in

Faithfully yours

Jane Pringle

P.S. Please have the receipt of picture ~~acknowledged~~

McLellan. G. F. (223)

Feb. 5. 1874,

Feb. 9/74,

Acknowledges receipt of
Ticket,

Washington, D.C. Feb. 5, 74

Dear Sir,

I gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to attend the opening of the Leonard Art Gallery, and the ticket of admission.

Very respectfully, yours,

G. F. McLellan

A. Hyde, Esq.,
Secretary,

modelled for the last six months.

I am willing to repair one of the damaged
plaster casts and submit it to the judgement
of any competent artist you may select.

I am Sir very respectfully
Carl Stierlin

W. W. Corcoran Esq
Washington D. C.

Stierlin Carl,

(222)

Feb 5. 1874.

Feb 6/74

Offer his services to
repair plaster casts.

Office. Treasurer of the United States.
Loan Division
Washington. Febr. 5. 1874

Sir

Having read in the paper that a lot of plaster casts for your art-gallery has arrived in a damaged condition I would respectfully offer my services to you as a competent artist to repair these plaster casts without injury. If this work be intrusted to incompetent hands, the artistic value of the whole cast might be spoiled. I would state that I am sculptor, have frequented the royal Academy of fine Arts at Berlin Prussia for 8 years, while one of the instructors was Professor Christian Rauch who made the bust of Humboldt for your gallery. I am pupil of Gustav Blaeser, at present Professor on the Academy of fine arts at Berlin Prussia; as reference about my standing as an artist I would mention J. L. Smith, Imeyer Esq. superintendent of the "Potomac Terra Cotta works" D. C. for whom I have

Feb 9th 1874.

R. W. Boreman Esq.,

Respected Sir,

I must beg that you will pardon the liberty I take in thus intruding for a few moments on your valuable time. Having seen by the papers that you are collecting valuable paintings for your magnificent "Gallery of Art" the thought occurred to me that perhaps you would purchase from us some very valuable paintings, & two small pieces of Statuary, which were bequeathed to this Institution by "James H. Behan". The paintings were bought regardless of price by Mr. Behan during his visit to Europe in the year 1850. They are reluctantly consigned & disposed of them to raise funds to enlarge our Hospital.

I have the honor to remain with sentiments of the highest esteem

Most respectfully

Wm. W. Boreman

St. Vincent's Hospital

Wm. W. Boreman

Wm. W. Boreman

Schedule of Paintings

1. Judith after the Murder of Holofernes 28 in by 40
said to be an original by Alain Christophers 1621
2. Scene in a Flemish Inn (Rubens) 17 in by 22

over

3. Fine exquisite / want of diapery / saio is
in the work of Carlo Dolci small

4. A very charming copy of Guido's
Beatrice Cenci 28 ensh. 40

5. also Guido's "Hope" very fine

6. The Sibyl holding an open parchment - fine
telling the birth of the Virgin very fine saio
is an original -

We have also two small pieces of exquisite
statuaries

(225)
Isadore, Sister Superior,
St. Vincent's Hospital,
Norfolk Va.
Feb. 9. 1874,
Feb. 10. 1874,

Offers six Pictures
for sale.



Colburn

Mrs R.

(226)

Feb. 9. 1874,

Feb. 9. 1874,

Requests permission to be
allowed to place two pictures
on exhibition.

✓
Permission given March 10/74
and copy of Regulating sent.

Recd

Washington D.C.
No 533 Fourteenth St.
February 9th 1874

Sir:

Having been informed that the
trustees of the "Corcoran Gallery of Art"
propose allowing Artists the privilege
of exhibiting their pictures in the
side rooms of said gallery, so soon
as suitable arrangements can be
made, I would, therefore, respect-
fully request permission to be al-
lowed to place on exhibition two
of my own paintings, one being a
fancy piece, but, at the same time,
consisting of portraits of my two
children, on canvas 25x36 inches,
the other a fruit piece, on canvas
29x34 inches.
Hoping to have a favorable con-

-sideration of my application, and
to be promptly informed of the ultimate
-mate decision of the committee,
I am

Very respectfully, &c.

Mrs R. Colburn

Artist.

Wm McLeod, Esq.

Curator of the

Corcoran Gallery of Art.

(221)
Avery, J. P.

New York Feb 10. 1874,

Recd 3 Feb 11/74

In reply to a letter with
regard to a collection of paintings
offered to the Gallery,
Considers them worthless.
Encloses letter upon the
subject from Clarence Cook,

S. P. AVERY

88 Fifth Ave.



ART ROOMS

near 14 St.

New-York Feb 10th 1874

Mr Wm MacLeod.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 4th
and apologize for not answering it
before - I hesitated to do so for
the matter is rather a delicate
one, and I had not carefully
examined the collection, but having
seen them from time to time as
they were picked up at the auctions
I was so indifferent to them that
I really was not competent to give
an impartial opinion, therefore I
have tried to get such information
as would possibly be of service to
you. The enclosed note will I
think cover the ground / but as

it was written to assist me in giving
a judgment I may not be entirely
justified in sending it) Mr C. is
one of our most intelligent critics and
does not write upon a subject of which
he is not entirely competent to give an
opinion, and in this matter I am
sure that he is right from all I
know and have heard on the subject.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art of
which I am a trustee - has impudent
to receive the same collection, ~~and~~
declined, alleging want of room - and
then had to decline any of them because
we did not want them. Institutions
kindred to ours are constantly annoyed
with applications from persons who for
purpose of selling or for vanity desire
to loan works of art - from experience
we find that in 99 cases out of 100
the things offered are worthless, and
we have to be constantly on the watch
to prevent inferior things from getting
an endorsement which an exhibition

in an established gallery of art is supposed to give
Very truly yours
John P. Brown

specimens of the paintings shown
namely they spatter. The exhibition
was to my mind a melancholy,
a disheartening, comment on the
ignorance of the general commu-
nity in which it took place
for such a collection could not
have been tolerated in London
or Paris. I do not want as
a proof of their ignorance, the
comments of the newspapers for
not even then they praised
the collection and treated it
as a genuine thing. For the
newspapers are always very
tender to a charity show, and
will say almost anything to
help it. I did not write a
word about it. The article you
saw was not mine. My charity
could not have collected such
a multitude of eyes. I was
sorry that the article was
short it was, but its value may
be tested by the fact that

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My dear Mr. Avery, I did see the
collection of pictures you refer to -
visiting it several times, and going
over it very carefully. A more
worthless collection I never saw,
anywhere; there was not a picture
in it that I would have accepted
as a gift: I could not have hung
it up in my house, and, certainly,
I never could have sold it.

I believe that on the opinion
of every disinterested person who,
like myself, went carefully over
the collection. As for their au-
thenticity - though I gave no
credit to the assertions of the
people who were concerned in the
enterprise - I profess to know
nothing. I judge the pictures
by their intrinsic worthlessness,
and by their inferiority to good

it treated some pictures which were made
copies, by some home painter apprentice, &
sent by driver as if they were pictures by
the master hand whose name they bore.

It would be in my humble opinion a
great misfortune to have these pictures accepted
for exhibition by any Institution of authority.
The Carran Art Gallery would make a very
poor beginning, by adopting such an in-
position, and when the cause of Chanty did

not call for silence as to its real charac-
ter, it would be the duty of every instructed
person to expose its impudent pretensions.
And it would be a duty very easily
performed.

Yours very truly

Clarence Cook

Feb. 11. '74

Hubbard, J. P. (228)

Feb 12. 1874,

Feb 13. 1874,

Acknowledges receipt
of tickets,

Church of the Strangers,
~~Washington, D. C.~~ Georgetown

Feb 12th 1874

Mr A. Hyde. Secy

I have to thank you for
your polite invitation to myself
& family to be present at the open-
ing of the Corcoran Gallery of Art,
& also your ticket of admission to
myself personally.

Owing to it's being wrongly directed,
it did not reach me in time
for us to avail ourselves of it.

Following upon this delay in receiving
it, my absence in New York for
ten days, has prevented an
earlier acknowledgement of your
kindness.

To the Trustees of Very respectfully
The Corcoran Gallery of John P. Hubbard.
Art.

(229)

Thayer. Sanford

Syracuse Feb 13/74

Answered Feb 20. 1874.

Proposes to ship a portrait
of C. L. Elliott to the Gallery
at his own expense.

Asks if it shall be
shipped.

✓

Syracuse, Feb. 13. 1874.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran,

Dear Sir, You will pardon this boldness, or "yunker impudence" in me when I tell you why I thus interrupt you.

I have read some little act of your disposition of your art treasures, and since I have a half length portrait, life size, of my lamented tutor C. L. Elliott, I propose, with your consent, to ship the same to your address, at my own expense of course, for your inspection, in the hope that you may feel disposed to purchase and place it in good and appropriate company when it can have a permanent resting place.

For several years past I have been greatly disabled by inflammatory rheumatism, and I find myself under the torture of pecuniary embarrassment, and in some of my despairing moments I have wondered whether this effort with you might not have the welcome result of raising the veil of dispendency, that I might see a few more years of usefulness.

Shall I bother you by sending the picture? Your prompt refusal will break no bones, nor bonds of friendship. A drowning man's struggles will soon end whether he catches any straws or not.

Very respectfully yours &c.

Sanford Thayer.

P.S. Pardon me if I say that the widow Elliott together with his many friends have pronounced this portrait the best ever painted of the eminent artist.

Treasury, Secty of. (230)

Feb 14. 1874,

Feb 14. 1874,

Collectors at New York
and Georgetown have recd
instructions to admit on
case containing Majolica
Vase. free of duty!

✓

W.

Treasury Department,

February 14th, 1874.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, to the Secretary, requesting the admission, free of duties and charges, of one case containing a majolica vase, as per bill of lading herewith returned,

imported for the use of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., in the steamship "Algeria," at the port of New York, from Liverpool.

The Collector of Customs at that port has been instructed accordingly and to forward said case to Georgetown, D.C., without examination; the Collector at which latter port has also been instructed to allow the examination thereof to be made at the said Gallery, as further requested by you.

I am, very respectfully,

J. P. Huntington

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Wm MacLeod, Esq.,

Curator, Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington, D.C.